



# PROPOSED RULE MAKING

CR-102 (June 2004)

(Implements RCW 34.05.320)

Do NOT use for expedited rule making

Agency: Department of Health – Board of Hearing and Speech

- ☒ Preproposal Statement of Inquiry was filed as WSR 02-02-043 ; or  
☐ Expedited Rule Making—Proposed notice was filed as WSR \_\_\_\_\_; or  
☐ Proposal is exempt under RCW 34.05.310(4).

- ☒ Original Notice  
☐ Supplemental Notice to WSR \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Continuance of WSR \_\_\_\_\_

Title of rule and other identifying information: (Describe Subject)

WAC 246-828-600 Approval of program for two-year degree in hearing instrument fitter/dispenser instruction.

WAC 246-828-605 Site review procedures for initial and continuing approval of program for two-year degree in hearing instrument fitter/dispenser instruction.

WAC 246-828-610 Process for rescinding approval of program for two-year degree in hearing instrument fitter/dispenser instruction.

WAC 246-828-615 Two-year degree in hearing instrument fitter/dispenser instruction standards.

## Hearing location(s):

Department of Health, 310 Israel Road SE, Tumwater, WA 98501

Date: March 3, 2006 Time: 1:30 p.m.

## Submit written comments to:

Name: Karen Kelley

Address: PO Box 47869, Olympia, WA 98504-7869

e-mail [www.doh.wa.gov/Rules/default.htm](http://www.doh.wa.gov/Rules/default.htm)

fax (360)236-4918 by (date) February 17, 2006

Assistance for persons with disabilities: Contact

Karen Kelley by February 24, 2006

TTY ( ) 711 or (800) 833-6388

Date of intended adoption: March 3, 2006

(Note: This is NOT the effective date)

Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules. RCW 18.35.040 (1) (b) requires satisfactory completion of a two-year degree program in hearing instrument fitter/dispenser instruction.

Reasons supporting proposal: RCW 18.35.040 states an applicant for licensure as a hearing instrument fitter/dispenser must complete a two-year degree program in hearing instrument fitter/dispenser instruction approved by the Board. Rules need to be established to outline the approval process for two-year degree programs in hearing instrument fitter/dispenser instruction.

Statutory authority for adoption: RCW 18.35.040

Statute being implemented: RCW 18.35.040

## Is rule necessary because of a:

Federal Law?

Federal Court Decision?

State Court Decision?

If yes, CITATION:

☐ Yes ☒ No  
☐ Yes ☒ No  
☐ Yes ☒ No

DATE October 17, 2005

NAME (type or print)

Karen Kelley

SIGNATURE

*Karen Kelley*

TITLE Program Manager

## CODE REVISER USE ONLY

CODE REVISER'S OFFICE  
STATE OF WASHINGTON  
FILED

NOV 2 2005

TIME 11:31

WSR 05-22-09

AM  
PM

(COMPLETE REVERSE SIDE)

Agency comments or recommendations, if any, as to statutory language, implementation, enforcement, and fiscal matters:  
None.

Name of proponent: (person or organization)

Board of Hearing and Speech

- ☐ Private  
☐ Public  
☒ Governmental

Name of agency personnel responsible for:

Name	Office Location	Phone
Drafting..... Karen Kelley	310 Israel Road SE, Tumwater, WA 98501	(360) 236-4856
Implementation....Karen Kelley	310 Israel Road SE, Tumwater, WA 98501	(360) 236-4856
Enforcement..... Karen Kelley	310 Israel Road SE, Tumwater, WA 98501	(360) 236-4856

Has a small business economic impact statement been prepared under chapter 19.85 RCW?

☐ Yes. Attach copy of small business economic impact statement.

A copy of the statement may be obtained by contacting:

Name:

Address:

phone

fax

e-mail

☒ No. Explain why no statement was prepared.

An SBEIS is not necessary under chapter 19.85 RCW. These rules do not impose additional costs on licensed hearing aid fitter dispensers.

Is a cost-benefit analysis required under RCW 34.05.328?

☒ Yes A preliminary cost-benefit analysis may be obtained by contacting:

Name: Karen Kelley

Address: Board of Hearing and Speech

PO Box 47869

Olympia, WA 98504-7869

phone (360) 236-4856

fax (360) 236-4918

e-mail [karen.kelley@doh.wa.gov](mailto:karen.kelley@doh.wa.gov)

☐ No: Please explain:

## NEW SECTION

**WAC 246-828-600 Approval of program for two-year degree in hearing instrument fitter/dispenser instruction.** The minimum educational requirement for licensure to practice as a hearing instrument fitter/dispenser in Washington is satisfactory completion of a two-year degree program in hearing instrument/fitter dispenser instruction approved by the board. The board will consider for approval any program which meets the requirements as outlined in this chapter.

(1) An authorized representative of an institution may apply for approval from the board.

(2) The application for approval must be submitted on forms provided by the department.

(3) The authorized representative of the program may request approval of the program as of the date of the application or retroactively to a specified date.

(4) The program application for approval must include, but may not be limited to, documentation required by the board pertaining to the standards as set in WAC 246-828-615 two-year degree in hearing instrument fitter/dispenser instruction standards.

(5) A program must be fully recognized by the appropriate accreditation body in that jurisdiction.

(6) The board will evaluate the application and may conduct a site inspection of the program prior to granting approval by the board.

(7) Upon completion of the evaluation of the application, the board may grant or deny approval or grant approval conditioned upon appropriate modification of the application.

(8) In the event the board denies an application or grants conditional approval, the authorized representative of the applicant's program may request a review within thirty days of the board's adverse decision/action. If a request for review of an adverse action is made more than thirty days following the board's action, the contesting party must submit a new application to be considered for approval.

(9) The authorized representative of an approved program shall notify the board of significant changes with respect to information provided on the application within sixty days of change.

(10) The board may inspect an approved program at reasonable intervals for compliance. Refer to WAC 246-828-605 Site review procedures for initial and continuing approval of program for two-year degree in hearing instrument fitter/dispenser instruction. The board may withdraw its approval if it finds the program has failed to comply with requirements of law, administrative rules, or representations in the application.

#### NEW SECTION

WAC 246-828-605 Site review procedures for initial and continuing approval of program for two-year degree in hearing instrument fitter/dispenser instruction. The board may inspect a currently approved program or a program requesting approval. These inspections may be at any reasonable time during the normal business hours of the institution.

#### NEW SECTION

WAC 246-828-610 Process for rescinding approval of program for two-year degree in hearing instrument fitter/dispenser instruction. In the event the board rescinds approval or grants conditional approval, the authorized representative of the applicant's program may request a review within thirty days of the board's adverse decision/action. Should a request for review of an adverse action be made after thirty days following the board's action, the contesting party must submit a new application to be considered for review.

#### NEW SECTION

WAC 246-828-615 Standards for approval of program for two-year degree in hearing instrument fitter/dispenser instruction. The curriculum of the program shall include the components listed in this chapter.

(1) The standards in this section are intended as minimum components of a curriculum, and are not intended as an exact description of program curricula. To assure a graduate is competent and can function on his or her own, the curriculum should be designed to assure proficiency in all these fields through extensive practical work experience in addition to classroom teaching. All the necessary instruments and laboratories based on industry standards are a prerequisite.

(2) Minimum areas of standard:

(a) **Supervised practicum:** Including hands-on experience with patients.

(b) **English composition:** Written presentations.

(c) **Occupational communications:** Oral presentations, documentation of professional activities.

(d) **Occupational human relations:** Code of professional ethics, interpersonal skills, teamwork.

(e) **Basic math and computers:** The physics of sound, basic

acoustics, methods of programming hearing instruments, calculating pricing, costs and other business-related math skills.

(f) **Hearing instrument sciences:** Basic electronics, circuit designs of hearing instruments, testing methodology of instruments, test standards, familiarity with all major instruments on the market, basic signal processing, programming of digital instruments using computers.

(g) **Hearing physiology and anatomy:** Anatomy and physiology of the human auditory system.

(h) **Pathophysiology of auditory system:** Introductory level study of genetic disorders and infectious diseases of the auditory system.

(i) **Psychological aspects of hearing loss:** Curricula should be designed so the student understands:

(i) How hearing loss affects patients and others close to them;

(ii) How to follow up with patients after initial fitting; and

(iii) Methods of teaching communication skills to the hearing-impaired.

(j) **Audiometrics:** Performing pure tone and speech audiometry and interpretation, measuring output of instruments both in the lab and in the ear.

(k) **Earmolds:** Emphasis on practical skills and safety.

(l) **Instrument selection:** Recommending the best technology according to the client's needs from conventional through advanced digital/programmable instruments, including referrals for medical implantable devices.

(m) **Health care and business:** Laws governing the profession, insurance aspects, health care management, advertising, marketing and sales.

(n) **Introduction to speech-language pathology.**

(o) **Overview of cochlear implants** including criteria for referrals for medical implantable devices.

